CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

identifying components associated with a first end point in an environment;

identifying components associated with a second end point in the environment;

determining whether any of the identified components are associated with both the first end point and the second end point;

identifying relationships between the first end point, the second end point, and any components associated with both the first end point and the second end point.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the environment is a social environment.

3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving a request to identify relationships between the first end point and the second end point.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether any of the identified components are associated with both the first end point and the second end point includes determining a path strength for each path between the first end point and the second end point.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether any of the identified components are associated with both the first end point and the second end point includes:

determining a path strength for each path between the first end point and the second end point; and

ranking the paths between the first end point and the second end point based on path strength.

6. A method as recited in claim 5 further comprising ignoring paths having a path strength below a predetermined threshold.

7. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein identifying relationships includes identifying only the top ranked paths between the first end point and the second end point.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising displaying relationships between the first end point, the second end point, and any components associated with both the first end point and the second end point.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships includes displaying information regarding at least one component.

10. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships includes displaying information regarding at least one link between components.

11. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships includes displaying a social context associated with the first end point and displaying a social context associated with the second end point.

12. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships includes:

displaying the first end point;

displaying the second end point; and

displaying at least one common component associated with the first end point and the second end point.

13. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the second end point;

displaying at least one link between the common component and the first end point; and

displaying at least one link between the common component and the second end point.

14. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying the first end point;

displaying the second end point;

displaying components associated with the first end point; and

displaying components associated with the second end point.

15. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

16. A method comprising:

displaying a first end point;

displaying components associated with the first end point;

displaying a second end point;

displaying components associated with the second end point;

displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the second end point;

displaying a link between the common component and the first end point; and

displaying a link between the common component and the second end point.

17. A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:

determining a path strength associated with the common component; and

preventing the display of the common component if the path strength is below a threshold.

18. A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:

displaying a second common component associated with the first end point and the second end point;

displaying a link between the second common component and the first end point; and

displaying a link between the second common component and the second end point.

19. A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising displaying a second link between the common component and the first end point.

20. A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising:

determining a strongest link between the common component and the first end point; and

highlighting the strongest link between the common component and the first end point.

21. A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:

displaying a second link between the common component and the first endpoint; and

displaying a second link between the common component and the second end point.

22. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

23. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

display a first end point in a social network;

display a second end point in a social network;

identify a common component associated with the first end point and the second end point;

display the common component associated with the first end point and the second end point;

display a link between the common component and the first end point; and

display a link between the common component and the second end point.

24. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more processors further determine a path strength associated with the common component and prevent display of the common component if the path strength is below a threshold.

25. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the common component and the first end point.

26. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the common component and the first end point and display a second link between the common component and the second end point.

27. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more processors further identify a second common component associated with the first end point and the second end point.

28. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more processors further display the second common component associated with the first end point and the second end point.